Overseas training for Indian Defence Forces personnel

342. SHRI S.S. AHLUWALIA: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Indian Defence Forces personnel are deputed to military institutions in various countries for receiving specialized training under the International Military Education and Training Programme;

(b) the names of the countries which are affiliated to the Programme;

(c) the details of institutions overseas where Indian personnel received training since 2001;

(d) whether personnel are deputed to countries outside the Programme also for receiving expert training; and

(e) if so, country-wise details thereof, indicating separately wherever the purposes were to receive expertise in counter terrorism/insurgency, year-wise since 1998?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) to (c) Indian Defence Forces personnel are being deputed to United States of America under its International Military Education and Training Programme. The countries affiliated to this programme are decided by the United States Government. Indian Defence Personnel have been deputed to approximately 150 institutions overseas for training since 2001.

(d) Yes, Sir.

(e) Indian Defence pesonnel have been deputed to United States of America, United Kingdom-Australia, Singapore for counter-terrorism/ insurgency-related training.

Strengthening the coast guard

343. SHRI KALRAJ MISHRA: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to strengthen the Coast Guard;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the total cost of strengthening the Coast Guard; and

(d) the time by when the Coast Guard will be provided all necessary equipments including vessels?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) to (d) In an expanding organization like the Coast Guard, procurement of necessary equipment including vessels is an ongoing process. The Coast Guard has been adequately equipped to carry out the role assigned to it by the Government. In accordance with the Coast Guard Development Plan 2002-2007 a total outlay of Rs. 4317.01 crore has been provided for this purpose.

Suicide cases in the armed forces

344. SHRI EKANATH K. THAKUR: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that as per the lastest figures, almost 100 suicide cases are reported every year in the armed forces of our country;

(b) whether it is also a fact that the suicide cases are more frequent in strife torn Jammu-Kashmir and the North-East region; and

(c) if so, the steps Government propose to take to lessen the stress syndrome among soldiers and reduce the number of suicide and reduce the number of suicide cases in armed forces?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) Yes, Sir. The figures for the last three years are given below:-

	2003	2004	2005
Navy Army	0 96	03	04 92
Air Force	24	100 13	23
	120	116	119

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Proactive approach through better man management techniques is being adopted at different levels. Measures such as identification of high risk category, increased inter personnel relationship and communication between Officers and Jawans, stress management, counselling by professionals, establishment of helpline and increased focus on welfare activities are taken to prevent such incidents.